

Lafayette Avenue, S.E.

28 07/29/68 2790 Capitol
Photo in GRPL, Lorensen collection.

38 07/29/68 2791 Capitol
Photo in GRPL, Lorensen collection.

42

44

46 Lafayette S.E. Photo of building on Lafayette S.E. just north of Christian Science Church is in G.R. *Herald*, February 19, 1949, p. 7. Church purchased it for Sunday school. Other photos in GRPL, Lorensen collection; and GRPL, Robinson/Capitol collection.

46 08/23/63 1636 Capitol

48 Lafayette S.E. First Church of Christ Scientist. Christian Science came to Grand Rapids in 1885, and this church was organized in 1893 with 8 members. The present church site was selected in 1901, and the large home of P.D. Clay which stood here was moved (cf. GRH 08/10/1924). The building was completed in February of 1905. The architecture is 19th century Greek Revival. The outside walls are constructed of light brick trimmed with Indiana limestone. When the church was first used, it was lighted with gas lamps; one remains at the head of the west stairway. There were several fireplaces like the two still in the committee room. The early Sunday School students raised the money to purchase the sunburst dome in the church auditorium. The auditorium or chapel seats about 500 people. The Sunday School wing to the east was added in 1962. The pipe organ was built by Hillgreen-Lane of Alliance, OH, and installed in the church in 1905. It was completely rebuilt in 1961, utilizing only the pipes from the old organ. There are nearly 3,000 pipes, ranging in size from almost 19 feet long by two feet wide to the smallest pipe, not much larger than an ordinary pencil. The organ has 4,000 electrical contacts and uses nearly 5 miles of electrical wire.

53

57 Photo in GRPL, Lorensen collection.

137-39 Photos in GRPL 125-C026508 D & F.

140

145-47

201 01/26/71 3779 Capitol
Clinic. No sewer.

210

215 St. Raphael's Home. Partial photo in GRPL 125-E2203.

226

239

240 Lafayette S.E.

On this site stood the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged. The Little Sisters, a community of women religious



originating in France, had arrived in Grand Rapids from Cincinnati in 1884 at the invitation of Bp. Henry J. Richter. In 1898, the Sisters built the 5-story brick structure which was a landmark for city residents. Priests from St. Joseph's Seminary attended the home as its chaplains for many years. By the late 1960's, increasingly stringent government

regulations hampered the Little Sisters in their traditional methods of seeking food and other goods from local institutions and businesses. In the *Western Michigan Catholic* of July 17, 1970, it was announced that the Little Sisters' home would close. They withdrew from Grand Rapids in mid-October, 1970, and the home was razed for hospital parking in September, 1971. In their 86 years in the community, over 200 Little Sisters had provided a home for over 3,000 elderly men and women from all over the Midwest. The carriage house has been moved from the property, and still

stands at the south
Photos from *The Golden Jubilee of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish 1924-1974*, Grand Rapids, MI 1974. Top: exterior, likely taken about 1926 from top of newly completed Macauley Building of St. Mary's Hospital, and before 2-story entryway was built on the front of the Home, p. 20. Bottom: chapel, u

ndated, p. 17.)

240

09/13/71

3990

Pitsch

06/26/97. Carriage house moved to 300 State S.E.

241

249

251

253

255 05/28/68 2705 *Washington Square Urban Renewal--
Pitsch*

257

259 01/04/68 2598 *Pitsch*

263 01/04/68 2599 *Pitsch*

299-305 11/06/67 2557 *Washington Square Urban Renewal--
Pitsch*

300	06/27/97	8733	Little Sisters of the Poor carriage house moved to 300 State S.E. on July 10, 1997.
301			
303			
305			
307-09	11/28/67	2580	<i>Washington Square Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i>
308-10	10/22/69	3242	Inspection--Pitsch Rosewood Apts. 12 apartments.
315-17	11/28/67	2579	<i>Washington Square Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i>
316	07/25/69	3101	Velting Contractors, Inc.

319	06/03/68	2738	Washington Square Urban Renewal-- Pitsch
320	08/13/84	7289	Riverside
323	11/26/68	2894	Urban Renewal
327-31	04/09/69	3015	Washington Square Urban Renewal
330	10/29/79	5839	Pitsch
332	10/29/79	5838	Pitsch
335	12/31/68	2914	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
338			
341	08/22/67	2482	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
342	10/29/79	5837	Pitsch
344-46	07/24/86	7515	Riverside
347	09/13/67	2504	<i>Washington Square Urban Renewal-- Pitsch</i>
348	10/29/79	5836	Pitsch
348-50	01/17/62	796	<i>George Damoose Co.</i>
351	11/06/67	2560	Washington Square Urban Renewal-- Loren Pitsch
355			
356			

409 Lafayette S.E. Dedicated as Lafayette School in November, 1922, this structure replaced the original Lafayette School built on the same site in 1869. Designed by Harvard-trained Henry H. Turner (Grand Rapids' school architect from 1909 to 1919), the building was once called the most beautiful school in Michigan. It embodies Turner's philosophy, "Beauty should be part of a child's heritage." The school originally featured large windows that allowed natural light and ideal air circulation.

412 11/27/74 4742 3 in 1

426 Lafayette S.E. The 1936 assessor's office photo shows a very grand-looking 3-story Queen Anne-style house built in 1895 for a man named Jennings, who owned a perfume company. The house was constructed of wood, with an ornate, encircling veranda and a large Palladian attic window. The house was later divided into five apartments. Old oak staircases were hidden inside walls, and the butler's pantry had been turned into a bathroom. Subsequently the house was covered with asphalt siding; lost the veranda to a late 1920's-style brick porch; and was heavily damaged in a fire on April 28, 1994, that was fatal to three children. The senior editor of *This Old House* magazine chose this house for the magazine's "Save This Old House" department, and in August, 1995, it was sold to Timothy Fuller of Lansing for \$1,000. (Cf. "Spotlight Saves Heritage Hill House," *Grand Rapids Magazine*, October 1995, pp. 8, 10.) In May, 1997, Fuller sold the house to Shawn and Sheryl Richardson for \$4,000. ("Long Road Back," GRP 11/29/1998 D5.)

431 09/18/69 3135 Pitsch

437 05/14/69 3038 Houting & Meeusen

441 11/17/69 3274 Pitsch

445 02/09/70 3381 Pitsch

449-51 01/12/70 3321 Pitsch

457-59 02/08/72 4117 Urban Renewal

463-65 04/25/73 4412 Urban Renewal--Pitsch

501	11/30/71 01/19/73	4067 4339	Pitsch Urban Renewal (voided)
505	10/27/71	4018	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
511	01/16/70	3328	Cooke
<i>513</i>			
515	11/30/71	4066	<i>Pitsch</i>
519-21	12/19/73	4534	Urban Renewal
525	10/27/71	4017	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
537	11/13/73	4355	Urban Renewal--Hodgens
540-42	08/09/77	5322	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
545	04/25/73	4410	Urban Renewal--Hodgens
546-48	08/28/75	4565	Loader & Dump
549	05/24/73	4425	Urban Renewal--Hodgens
553	08/30/73	4466	Urban Renewal
559	12/05/77	5355	Neighborhood Improvement-- Loader & Dump
562	03/22/74	4562	Loader & Dump
563	08/10/73 08/23/73	4452 4472	BaIforts Loader & Dump
566 Lafayette S.E. Fire on Friday, September 24, 1976, at 12:45 a.m. totally destroyed this house.			
566	02/10/77	5209	Neighborhood Improvement
569	10/22/75	4953	Pitsch
572 Lafayette S.E. This house was heavily damaged in the fire at neighboring 566 Lafayette S.E. on Friday, September 24, 1976.			
572	08/01/77	5356	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
575	08/01/77	5263	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
579 Lafayette S.E. Occupied by Margaret Cuncannan in the early 1920's,			

this house was moved in the early 1990's one block to the east, and is now situated at 585 Prospect S.E., on the northwest corner of Prospect and Pleasant.

601	04/19/77 Voided.	5256	Neighborhood Improvement
607	08/04/72	4237	Cannon
617 Kentwood	02/01/82	7084	Neighborhood Improvement--
625	05/17/94	8410	
634			
638	02/04/70	3377	<i>Reuben Tardy</i>
641	07/14/72	4207	Cannon
645	08/14/73	4404	Pitsch
650	03/18/71	3825	Pitsch
700	02/22/71	3808	Big Chief
701	02/03/71	3780	Weber
704	12/09/75	4968	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
717	06/09/75	4768	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
718	05/25/71	3878	Pitsch
722	Lafayette S.E. Fire on Sunday, November 6, 1966, at 12:23 a.m. did \$5,500 damage to this 2½-story frame apartment house. Owner, John DeJong. Occupant, Eddie Edins & others. Caused by children with matches.		
722	11/18/70	3697	Cooke
726	04/08/74	4574	Pitsch
731	06/21/73	4437	Pitsch
735	08/04/70	3515	Urban Renewal--Cooke
736	02/25/70	3394	Cooke
739	03/29/66	2138	Capitol
744			

806

816 01/18/85 7129 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

823 08/24/78 5616
05/16/79 5659 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

830 06/17/89 7919
07/26/89 7947

833

836 08/25/80 5938 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

910 10/31/72 4003 Hodgens

914 03/02/73 4328 Hodgens

940 12/23/75 4918 Urban Renewal--Pitsch

1009 07/24/67 2465 Staggs

1010 03/13/87 7609 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

1015 01/12/72 4075 Cooke

1030 08/13/75 4865 Urban Renewal--Cross

1059 03/13/75 4869 Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump

1069 03/02/82 7104 Neighborhood Improvement--
Kentwood Two buildings.

1069½-rear 02/19/80 5896 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
No water cutoff.

1070 01/07/82 7097 Neighborhood Improvement--
Kentwood

11/30/31 7102 Neighborhood Improvement
(cancelled)

1072-74 05/04/72 4176 Pitsch

1075 03/07/96 8616
Also 247 Highland S.E. Palmer's Party Store. Destroyed by fire,
Monday, March 4, 1996.

1109	04/17/95 07/27/98	8491 8820	Shelby Harvey H & M
1110	08/01/77	5368	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch No water cutoff.
1114	05/17/94	8405	Pitsch
1115	07/27/98	8819	H & M
1119	04/03/87	7598	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1123	07/27/98	8818	H & M
1125	05/15/80	5917	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1131	03/07/80	5900	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1134	08/26/76	5139	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1140	04/23/75	4816	Cannon
1155	05/21/71	3873	Cooke
1163	09/09/74	4640	Hodgens
1177	Lafayette S.E. Fire on Tuesday, July 25, 1967, during the civil disturbance destroyed the building, but parts of the walls were left standing for the next two months. Fire on Saturday, September 16, 1967, at 8:31 p.m., found the vacant 2-story frame building completely involved on arrival. It had been a sheet metal fabrication business, owner Francis Carmody. Neighbors had expressed their dissatisfaction with the city for not removing the rubble from the first fire.		
1177	09/25/67	2515	E. DeVries & Sons

1205-07

1206	02/14/74	4536	Loader & Dump
1208-10	08/06/75	4832	Urban Renewal--Cross
1219	10/09/74	4666	Urban Renewal--3 in 1
1222	07/29/76	4956	Neighborhood Improvement-- Wonderland

1260 Lafayette S.E. Fire on Friday, May 3, 1963, at 8:35 a.m. destroyed a 2-stall frame garage and auto, with \$850.00 loss. Calvin J. Sytsma, owner. Exposure damage to 1-stall frame garage at 1256 Lafayette S.E.

1264	07/14/71	3924	Dohm
1301	03/29/72	4130	Cannon Sewer line cut off in side yard.
1334	10/07/86	7549	Courtade
1417	06/03/82	7144	Riverside Cancelled 07/19/82.
1432	11/29/90	8106	Pitsch
1433	07/14/72	4221	Cannon
1436	10/09/86	7463	Arthur Kern
	06/11/86	7508	Courtade (voided)

1601-09

1612	11/13/67	2565	Cooke
------	----------	------	-------